What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #223:

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Happy 2025 to all my readers!
I hope that everyone had a safe and happy introduction to the new year. I took a few days off to try to enjoy the last few quiet days before work gets crazy. In about one week I will be off to the New York International Coin Fair. It is an exciting time of the year for the ancient collectors and dealers when everyone comes together for celebrating another year, fancy dinners, friends, auctions and naturally lots of coins. For those of you that are not flying to New York, I do hope that you can take part in one of the many auctions that are taking place that week. New York is the one place where there are still live coin auctions and not just viewings for upcoming sales. As always, I will be at the show and exhibiting for SSNI as well as NAC USA. This newsletter will be solely dedicated to the auctions taking place at the New York International.

New York International Coin Fair (16-19 January 2025)
The bourse for the NY International takes place at the InterContinental New York Barclay, located at 111 East 48th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues. While the bourse is January 16-19, there are auctions that start to take place on Monday, January 13 at 11 a.m. (Heritage Auctions). Each day there are one or more auctions during that entire week. There are also a few academic talks wedged within the week. I sponsored the talk last year from Jesse Kraft and this year I plan to sponsor Doug Mudd's talk on the Silk Road. Due to the timing on the talks and the eagerness of collectors to hang out in the bourse, I find the attendance of them to be rather anemic. Hopefully this year more people will take the time. They really are a wonderful advantage of attending the show that adds to the visitor experience.

I will be at booth(s) **900** and **902** for the bourse. The same position as last year. Please do come by and say hello if you are able to attend. I'll have plenty of stock (including the coin of the week below!).

Heritage Platinum Auction Sale at the NY International (Monday, 13 January)
While Heritage will have three other auctions on Monday prior to the Platinum sale, the one which will draw the most attention is the 6 p.m. (EST) sale of their high quality ancients and world coinage. There are 731 lots that will be auctioned off that evening in the Barclay Salon at the InterContinental. As most know, the NY international is known for having live floor sales so this is a rare opportunity to experience bidding in the room. Take advantage or at least sit and watch some of it. I really do believe that it is one aspect of the coin market that is sadly becoming less relevant at major trade shows as the community becomes more focussed on online auctions. This might seem to be an antiquated practice to many, but I see it creating a vibrant community which brings interaction amongst collectors and dealers. This is sorely missing from our trade shows.

French Ecu d' Or ND under Charles VII (1422-1461) through Henri VI (1589-1610). This is followed by gold from Great Britain (under James I) and the Netherlands (all provincial gold imitative Rose Noble coinage). All the starting prices on these are $1.

The next section are 93 coins from South Africa followed by Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Russia. For those of you that want to buy Russian coins and avoid the dreaded import taxes that we've had to pay the last few years, now is the time.

The third part starts with 97 ancient coins, with the most being Roman Imperial at 44 lots. Heritage encapsulates most of its coins so the action for ancients will likely not come from the traditional buyer. I've found in recent years that ancient coins that do best for Heritage typically are standard gold and silver coinage that are in great condition and grade 5/5 for surface and strike. For example, lot 33006, a gold stater of Philip II with a Apollo head that is suggestive of his son Alexander III, the Great, does particularly well in Heritage sales. A coin like lot 33014, a silver siglos from Cos, is a rare type that aesthetically doesn't fit the traditional type at Heritage auctions. I'm curious to see how this fares. It is a rarity so it may perform better than I expect but the audience for this type is not really the typical Heritage buyer. Maybe an opportunity? The Ptolemaic large denomination gold also performs particularly strong at Heritage sales. There is a larger selection of this type available. While there are only four coins from Judaea in the ancient section, there is a big league coin, a Year 5 shekel from the First Jewish Revolt. The fifth, and last year of the Revolt resulted in the destruction of the Great Temple in Judaea. The spoils from the Roman victory were paraded through the streets of Rome in 70 AD under the emperor Vespasian. This directly resulted in the construction of the Colosseum of Rome which still stands today. If you are a possible buyer of this coin I urge you to read the write-up accompanying the lot. There is a measure of controversy surrounding this and 12 other pieces that were found in the basement of the coin firm Baldwin's of London (often cited as Baldwin's Vault). While the coin has not been condemned, there still remains controversy over the authenticity. I believe this is the reason for the lower than average estimate (The type has sold for $300,000 at a 2016 Triton Sale). The Roman Imperatorial and Roman Empire coins are primarily high grade and gold. Finally there are a few nice Byzantine pieces.

After the ancients there continues to be world coins. Lot 33302 is quite special and worth checking out. It is the "Most Exalted Order of the Star of India gold, silver, enamel & onyx Grand Cross Collar, Badge, Breast Star, Sash, and Sash Badge ND". This impressive lot was crafted in 1861 and likely partially designed by Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert. These honors and decorations were bestowed upon various persons in the Indian empire following the Indian Rebellion of 1857. This particular grouping was owned by King Farouk of Egypt and offered for sale in 1951 with the auctioneer Max Mehl.

Triton XXVIII (CNG, LLC) (14-15 January)

While previously there were several major players in the ancient coin market in year's past at the NY show, there really stands one definitive auction in which the main focus is on ancient coinage. That firm is CNG with their Triton auction. Triton only takes place once a year and is always at the New York International. This tends to be the one "not to be missed" live sale for participants during the week. There are four sessions (Tuesday and Wednesday morning and afternoon). As typical for Triton, there are a few consignors that are described and honored in some way. This year we see the collections of Sidney Wayne Harl (1924-2016), Robert William Hubel (1891-1944), Dr. Tom E. Beniak (b. 1947) and Gerald Francis Borrmann (1928-2024). Small biographies are available in the paper catalog for those interested to learn more about the people "behind the collections". There are also a few other collections that have bar codes attached to them at the beginning of the paper catalog, for the buyers to learn more about the collection. I checked out the Alexander Christopher collection. The video featured Mike Gasvoda, managing director of CNG, describing the collection as being composed of world coins, many of them described as "top pop". For those that have limited time and want to get a quick overview of the catalog, this might be a good way. Another collection being offered is a small group of pieces from the Robert Hubel collection. This interesting collection formed in 1929-1939 is far more than the 35 pieces being offered here, but most will be sold in later CNG sales as the quality is less than ideal for a floor auction. The ones featured here are the best of this vast collection.

the coins were privately held, but I'll leave you to make that determination for yourself.

A few highlights from the catalog that I noticed were lot 60, a rarely seen, highly pedigreed tetradrachm of Akragas. While the obverse is softly struck with some minor doubling the reverse is stunning and shows the violent capture of a hare by two eagles. The pedigree goes back to 1910. Lot 79 is an extremely rare type, a dekadrachm of "Damareteion". The piece also has a wonderful old pedigree but surfaces are rough and there is a large cut through the head of Damareteion on the reverse. This piece is impressive in that they rarely become available. A shout out to my brother Aaron Berk though that snagged one recently in a Scandinavian sale. It also happened to be from the phenomenal Kunstfreund collection. Wish I would have set my alarm for that! Lot 86 is a beautifully styled Syracuse tetradrachm under the second democracy (466-405 BC). It has a sculpted head of Arethusa on the reverse and comes from the coveted Kunstfreund collection (Charles Gillet and noted above as well). Lot 90 is a detailed and complete tetradrachm designed by the artists Euth and Eumenes. It was displayed in the Phoenix Art Museum and sold in the 1998 Triton II auction. Lot 93 is a signed dekadrachm of Euainetos, another ex-Gillet coin (not in the Kunstfreund sale but a part of the rather abundant Charles Gillet collection and photographed early on by the late Silvia Hurter of Bank Leu). Lot 149 is a sharply struck stater from either the Mygdones or Krestones, early Thraco-Macedonian tribes. It has a pedigree back to 1933 and was in a Ars Classica sale. Lot 236 is a fascinating and well-struck Pheneos stater. This comes from the BCD collection and was last in a 2012 Triton sale. Lot 387 is a rarely offered gold stater of the Pharaoh Nektanebo II. While the NGC grade is not wonderful, the coin is a unique type that was struck by an Egyptian Pharaoh.

In the Roman section, lot 445, is a fantastic medallion of Septimius Severus which was struck in the provincial city of Perinthus in Thrace. It has a vivid interpretation of Herakles holding a Erymanthean boar over his head while a terrified Eurystheus is shown at his feet cowering. There is a small group of damnatio coins under Caracalla. For those that aren't familiar, Caracalla rather forcefully murdered his brother Geta and attempted to literally erase his image from coinage. One will note that large bronzes that featured Geta and his father or brother would be routinely removed. Lots 459, 461, 464-467 are great examples of this. Lot 485, a Alexandrian bronze of Hadrian, is a gorgeous reverse type of a sphinx wearing a solar disk, horns and feathers. Lot 628 is a fantastic portrait of Mark Antony on a denarius struck in the summer of 31 BC. Lot(s) 742-844 are three denarii under Postumus (260-269 AD) with unique reverse types showing the fifth, ninth and eleventh labor of Hercules. Lot 784 is a very rare PB trial strike of the Roman emperor Allectus (293-296 AD). Lot 802 is a well struck (for the type) tremissis of Romulus Augustus.

Under world coinage there are several lovely pieces from the Alexander Christopher collection as described above. Also interesting is lot 1002, a gold medal struck in 1927 in France to commemorate the first solo transatlantic flight of Charles Lindbergh. This comes from a 1978 NASCA sale. There are several beautiful pennies from the Harl collection offered towards the end of the auction (lots 1010-1061).

I will view and attend this sale so please get in touch soon if you need representation.

St. James's Auction 100 (15 January)
The 100th sale of St. James's has 403 lots. While it does have some ancient coins, the world coins are really what makes this auction tick. Lot 9 is one notable piece in the ancient section, a quarter-shekel from Gaza. This coin, contemporary with the Athenian silver coinage, shares some features like the olive sprig and placement of the ethnic on the reverse but has a bearded male on the obverse (in lieu of Athena) and an side facing owl on the reverse. Lot(s) 17 and 18 are two high quality gold sovereigns of Elizabeth I. Lot 38 is a gold proof pattern guinea under George II from 1727. This piece comes from a 1974 Sotheby's auction but was last in the well-received Sincona British Collection sale a few years ago. There are some very pretty early proof and pattern British sovereigns also being offered.

The New York Sale Auction 63 (16 January)
This year we see the departure of another partner from the NY sale (Sovereign Rarities)

catalog dedicated to ancients. The cover coin, lot 1030, is a pretty tetradrachm of Mende. Lot 1567 is a set of Karl Goetz 1913 pattern coinage along with the original box. Lot 1583 is a lovely proof pattern gold 5 pounds of Queen Victoria from 1839. One of my favorite in the sale is lot 1586, a gorgeously toned 1839 proof silver crown of Victoria. Lot 1651 is a fascinating 2 taler klippe weighing a hefty 60.09 grams. This is from the siege of Kronstadt in Transylvania. A beautiful rarity.

Stacks Bowers NY Auctions (17-23 January)
Stacks Bowers has several sales starting at the New York International and extending through to the week following. I will review the headline sale. The first of the sales start on January 17. The ancient section is less interesting but there are a few nice pieces such as the cover coin, a large Ptolemaic silver coin, a pentakaidekadrachm weighing a hefty 51.75 grams (lot 31123). I found the world coinage to be more interesting and worthy of noting here. Lot 30026, is an impressive large gold medal from Spain struck in Barcelona in 1929 for an Exposition. It shows the royal couple Alfonso and Victoria Eugenie on the obverse and the personification of Barcelona on the reverse. Lot 30096 and 30097 are two 8 escuedo from a 1715 Treasure Fleet, a group of eleven ships that sunk on its way back to Spain from the New World as a result of a hurricane off the coast of Florida. Lot 30133 is an exceedingly rare revolutionary 60 pesos from Oaxaca. The mintage of these is estimated at around 21, although there have been some that have suggested double that amount. In any case, the mintage is low and the coin is quite rare. Lot 30170 is a stylistically interesting gold medal from Peru honoring Simon Bolivar. Lot 31173 is a possibly unique gold 20 ducat of Emperor Ferdinand II of Austria. Lot 31207 is a fascinating hand engraved medal from Canada that celebrates the 1801 Beaver Club of Montreal. It was designed for the American-born fur trader, Angus Bethune. The write-up details the life of Angus Bethune and is an interesting read. Lot 32032 is an extremely rare, early goldgulden of Wilhelm V, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel in Germany. This coin, struck in 1627, is likely the only gold coin struck of this earl. Lot 32095 is a beautiful gold 10 Ducat from Hungary struck under Ferdinand III. It is in near gem quality making it incredibly desirable. Lot 32253 is a gold novodel ducat from Russia struck in the 19th century but featuring Sofia (regent from 1682-1689) on the obverse with Ivan I and Peter the Great on the reverse.

Coin of the week

Sicily, Akragas, c. 465 - 440 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 17.53g. Eagle standing l. / Crab, human features displayed on shell

Pedigree: Ex Hess-Leu 11, 24 March, Luzern 1959, Lot 51. Ex NAC 138, Zürich 2023, Lot 47.

References: Westermark, Akragas 349 a.1 (this coin), Hoover 77.

Grade: A coin with beautiful strike and detail. Some flan irregularity on obverse with the feathers of the eagle appearing to be off the flan. The coin is nonetheless complete with full legends. The reverse is slightly off center which results in the left legs partially off flan. The face on the body of the crab is clearly visible and impressive. Bold EF

Price: $26,500

gk1976

Buy Coin

Akragas, known today as Agrigento, was a very important Greek city at the time this coinage was struck. It was founded in 582 BC by settlers from another Greek city state, Gela. Being strategically placed geographically, Akragas quickly grew wealthy from its trade in grain, olive oil and wine. It reached its zenith under the tyrant Theron (488-472 BC) who helped further the strength of the state through successful battles with Carthage and Himera.

The coinage of Akragas are rich in wildlife, specifically eagles and crabs. In Westermark's study on the coinage of Akragas, she comments on the identification of the crabs from the coinage. This particular die is associated with a marine crab which is typical for the Mediterranean area. An unusual and noteworthy feature of the crab is the almost human like features on the shell resembling a human face.

This coin comes from a 1959 Hess-Leu auction.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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